

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-16 (cancelled)

17. (New) An apparatus for holding a component, comprising:
a shaft having a nozzle at one end of said shaft, said shaft being movable along an axis of said shaft;

a suction device at another end of said shaft, said suction device connected to an air passage extending through said shaft and communicating with said nozzle such that when said suction device is activated air is sucked from said air passage so as to cause said nozzle to suck and hold a component;

a first blow device at said another end of said shaft, said first blow device connected to said air passage such that when said first blow device is activated air is supplied into said air passage for returning said air passage to an atmospheric state so as to release the component from said nozzle; and

a second blow device near said one end of said shaft, said second blow device connected to said air passage such that when said second blow device is activated air is supplied into said air passage for returning said air passage to an atmospheric state so as to release the component from said nozzle.

18. (New) The apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising:
a voice coil motor for moving said shaft along the axis of said shaft, said voice coil motor including one of a magnet and a coil fixed to a circumferential face of said shaft and the other of said magnet and said coil surrounding said one of said magnet and said coil,

wherein said second blow device is connected to said voice coil motor so as to be connected to said air passage via an opening in said voice coil motor.

19. (New) The apparatus according to claim 18, further comprising:
a control device connected to said first blow device and said second blow device, said control device for controlling an air feed start time of said first blow device and said second blow device such

that said air passage is returned to the atmospheric state during a period from when said nozzle holds a component and reaches a lowest fall point to a time when said nozzle starts to rise so as to have the component released from said nozzle and mounted onto an object.

20. (New) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein
said control device is for controlling the air feed start time based on a weight of the component held by said nozzle.

21. (New) The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein
said control device is for controlling the air feed start time based on a weight of the component held by said nozzle such that if the weight of the component held by said nozzle exceeds approximately 5g the air feed start time is a point in time when said nozzle reaches the lowest fall point.

22. (New) The apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising:
a control device connected to said first blow device and said second blow device, said control device for controlling an air feed start time of said first blow device and said second blow device such that said air passage is returned to the atmospheric state during a period from when said nozzle holds a component and reaches a lowest fall point to a time when said nozzle starts to rise so as to have the component released from said nozzle and mounted onto an object.

23. (New) The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein
said control device is for controlling the air feed start time based on a weight of the component held by said nozzle.

24. (New) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein
said control device is for controlling the air feed start time based on a weight of the component held by said nozzle such that if the weight of the component held by said nozzle exceeds

approximately 5g the air feed start time is a point in time when said nozzle reaches the lowest fall point.

25. (New) An apparatus for mounting a component, comprising:

a shaft having a nozzle at one end of said shaft, said shaft being movable along an axis of said shaft;

a suction device at another end of said shaft, said suction device connected to an air passage extending through said shaft and communicating with said nozzle such that when said suction device is activated air is sucked from said air passage so as to cause said nozzle to suck and hold a component;

a first blow device at said another end of said shaft, said first blow device connected to said air passage such that when said first blow device is activated air is supplied into said air passage for returning said air passage to an atmospheric state so as to release the component from said nozzle; and

a second blow device near said one end of said shaft, said second blow device connected to said air passage such that when said second blow device is activated air is supplied into said air passage for returning said air passage to an atmospheric state so as to release the component from said nozzle.

26. (New) The apparatus according to claim 25, further comprising:

a voice coil motor for moving said shaft along the axis of said shaft, said voice coil motor including one of a magnet and a coil fixed to a circumferential face of said shaft and the other of said magnet and said coil surrounding said one of said magnet and said coil,

wherein said second blow device is connected to said voice coil motor so as to be connected to said air passage via an opening in said voice coil motor.

27. (New) The apparatus according to claim 26, further comprising:

a control device connected to said first blow device and said second blow device, said control device for controlling an air feed start time of said first blow device and said second blow device such

that said air passage is returned to the atmospheric state during a period from when said nozzle holds a component and reaches a lowest fall point to a time when said nozzle starts to rise so as to have the component released from said nozzle and mounted onto an object.

28. (New) The apparatus according to claim 27, wherein
said control device is for controlling the air feed start time based on a weight of the component held by said nozzle.

29. (New) The apparatus according to claim 28, wherein
said control device is for controlling the air feed start time based on a weight of the component held by said nozzle such that if the weight of the component held by said nozzle exceeds approximately 5g the air feed start time is a point in time when said nozzle reaches the lowest fall point.

30. (New) The apparatus according to claim 25, further comprising:
a control device connected to said first blow device and said second blow device, said control device for controlling an air feed start time of said first blow device and said second blow device such that said air passage is returned to the atmospheric state during a period from when said nozzle holds a component and reaches a lowest fall point to a time when said nozzle starts to rise so as to have the component released from said nozzle and mounted onto an object.

31. (New) The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein
said control device is for controlling the air feed start time based on a weight of the component held by said nozzle.

32. (New) The apparatus according to claim 31, wherein
said control device is for controlling the air feed start time based on a weight of the component held by said nozzle such that if the weight of the component held by said nozzle exceeds

approximately 5g the air feed start time is a point in time when said nozzle reaches the lowest fall point.